

ARRUPE
JESUIT
HIGH SCHOOL



The GENERAL MESSENGER

SUMMER 2021



BACK TO SCHOOL

The 2020-2021 school year brought Arrupe Jesuit students and supporters back into the building like never before. We adapted with a hybrid learning model that allowed students to be in-person with their classmates and teachers, welcomed supporters to our classrooms for Magis Night, and managed faith formation retreats in-house.

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SAVE THE DATE!

Magis Night 2022

February 26, 2022

Sheraton Denver Downtown Hotel

Sponsorships and tickets

available soon

For the inside scoop on daily life
at Arrupe Jesuit, join us on



The PRESIDENT'S CORNER



Dear Friends,

At a recent Board of Trustees Executive Committee meeting, Fr. Marty Lally delivered a report from the Ignatian Identity Committee that he chairs. After noting the grace and enthusiasm with which students participated in Arrupe's pastoral programming over the last year – Mass, retreats, service projects – Fr. Marty declared confidently that "The world is in good hands".

Arrupe Jesuit High School: The World is in Good Hands.

What an extraordinary reflection on the responsibility that our students choose to accept. Of the ownership they assume for the gifts shared with them. Of the commitment they have made to work toward a more loving, just future. In one beautiful phrase, Fr. Marty has framed our daily efforts in their larger context.

As you consider the impact that our students are making and will make in the world, I want to share with you a note written last month on the eve of an alum's college graduation. It is addressed to her Arrupe Family.

In 2013, I was a scared freshman at Arrupe embarking on a journey that would later prove to be one of the best decisions of my life. The Arrupe family supported me and created a community of love for me and my peers. Through CWSP, classes, retreats, Masses, and events, I was prepared for life and came closer to God. Four years later, I embarked on my college career – thanks to all of you who believed in and guided me. I am so blessed to say that I have met my family's and my goal of being the first to graduate college. Thank you - to each and every one of you for all you do.

Every day we work to remind our students of their dignity and of their potential - all of which is bestowed upon them by our God whose love for us is immeasurable. When we who accompany our students do that work well, we are blessed to be reminded of our own dignity and our own place in the Kingdom. That is the grace inherent in our work. As we conclude this remarkable yet challenging school year, I thank you for your friendship and for your belief in the mission of Arrupe Jesuit High School.

I pray too that you see yourself in Fr. Marty's vision of Arrupe and that you find joy in the Thanks of our students.

God Bless,

Michael J. O'Hagan
President
AMDG

CORPORATE WORK STUDY PROGRAM



CWSP Seeking New Partners

After a year of adapting our curriculum to provide professional experience to our students outside of the workplace, the Corporate Work Study Program (CWSP) is poised and ready for students to return to work at full capacity this fall. The Covid-19 pandemic proved a hurdle for CWSP, with 75% of partners unable to hire students due to the remote nature of business operations. This reduction of partners unfortunately caused a \$2 million loss in tuition-related revenue, and significant learning and experiential loss for the students.

Despite the pandemic, AJHS and its supporters remain dedicated to creating pathways to professional fulfillment and academic success for low-income students. We strive to open the doors of opportunity that empower graduates to continue their education beyond AJHS and return as leaders in their communities. **It is for this reason that Arrupe Jesuit High School is seeking to partner with new employers for the 2021-2022 school year.** New partner referrals and introductions are essential to growing this unique program, that does so much for our students and their education in the workplace. If you have a connection to a company, corporation, or nonprofit in the Denver Metro Area that might be interested in learning about the program, please contact Liz Cole, Director of Philanthropy, at 720-726-3440 or LCole@ArrupeJesuit.com.

You can learn more about the Corporate Work Study Program on our website: <https://ArrupeJesuit.com/Corporate-Work-Study-Program/>

Congratulations to the Class of 2021

- **98 Graduates**
 - 70% first generation high school graduates
 - 94% first generation college bound
 - 100% accepted to college
- **Attending 22 colleges or universities**
 - 82% will attend a 4-year college
 - 18% will attend a 2-year college
 - 27% will attend Jesuit colleges
- **Earning over \$17,239,112 in merit and community based scholarships, including:**
 - 10 Daniels Scholars - the most from any one school!
 - Three Dell Scholars
 - One Gates Scholar
 - 15 received full-ride scholarships to their universities of choice



FAITH FORMATION AND IN-HOUSE

The 2020-2021 school year proved to be a challenge across the board at Arrupe Jesuit. Programs were adapted, some moved, and others canceled. Early on, our school administration recognized the importance of retreats and concluded that continued programming would be in the best interest of our student body and their mental and spiritual health.

Our Freshman Retreat was held in November, a true test to see if we could move these important programs inside the school building. This retreat is instrumental in the onboarding and welcoming process for our youngest students, providing a space for our Freshmen to meet other students, begin their high school faith journey, and learn about what it means to be a member of the Arrupe Jesuit community. We hosted the retreat on campus during the Freshman "In-Person" day, utilizing the Seniors as group leaders and Juniors as members of the

support team. While Freshman Retreat took place in the fall, all other retreats were pushed to the spring semester with hopes that the COVID situation might be different. Our Kairos program, inspired by our Jesuit brothers and sisters across town at Regis Jesuit High School, moved to an "on-campus" model rather than at our usual Retreat House in Sedalia, CO. Students stayed overnight in our classrooms, which proved to be fun for them, and a test of patience for our nighttime leaders. We used the cafeteria as our meeting room, the school chapel for Mass and prayer, and the AJHS gym and local parks for recreation time. We even rented a shower trailer so that our students could clean up each morning. While these experiences were meaningful for our Junior Class, it did not come without its challenges. Each day, our team of staff and faculty volunteers had to provide three meals a day for our retreatants and leaders totaling over 400 meals for each Kairos.



RETREATS

By Fr. Marcus Fryer, SJ, Pastoral Director

Our faculty and staff showed up in a big way to make the Junior's Kairos experience the best it could be. I remain eternally grateful to everyone who gave up time with their families to serve our students during this difficult time. Since the retreat had to move to off-hours for school, the faculty taught all week, lead the retreat during the weekend, and then immediately taught another week. They are the true heroes of our pastoral program this year.

Feedback from the Juniors reports that:

- 83% believe Kairos helped them increase their faith
- 57% said they are more likely to attend Mass after their Kairos experience
- 100% of Juniors said if Kairos were not required, they would recommend other Juniors attend



in the Arrupe Jesuit community. The day included Mass and a number of leadership growth opportunities. Typically, we host this retreat at Loyola Parish and City Park, but this year it was on campus and at Berkeley Park - and we were grateful for the sunny, 75 degree weather!



Senior Retreat, or our "Take God to College Retreat", took place in February on campus. We were successful in achieving our two main goals for the Senior Class: First, to prepare our Seniors to have a spiritual life and a relationship with Christ when they leave for college and second, to offer them a chance to prayerfully reflect on their community over the past four years at Arrupe. We spent the day praying and playing and continuing to grow closer to Christ and to one another.

Finally, we wrapped up the year with Sophomore Retreat in May, based on the theme of Christian Leadership. Our Alumni Service Corp and Arrupe Volunteers worked together to put on this retreat, a natural fit as they exemplify servant leadership



We hosted a total of seven retreats on campus this year (six of which were in the Spring). I am most grateful for the generosity of our staff, our student's loving, open hearts, and for the prayers from our external community. During each retreat, we remembered and prayed for the entire Arrupe Jesuit community...including each one of you!

AROUND ARRUPE JESUIT

Impact of Virtual School

After a year of school closings and distance learning amid the Coronavirus crisis, more than half of public school K-12 teachers said the pandemic resulted in a “significant” learning loss for students, both academically and from a social-emotional standpoint, according to a report by Horace Mann.¹ Sadly, the same result rings true for our Arrupe Jesuit students, with the crisis management of digital learning still very real.

The achievement gap that has historically plagued low-income students, like those at Arrupe Jesuit, has only grown through the pandemic. The significant challenges of virtual learning, social isolation, and difficult at-home circumstances were not conducive to increased learning potential. Virtual learning introduced new roadblocks, which ultimately have contributed to learning loss and social emotional stress.

A notable increase in need for services is highlighted through the outcomes of both our Academic Support Program and Mental Health Counseling team. During the 2020-2021 school year, AJHS’s Academic Support Program served 9.3% of students - almost double the amount compared to the previous school year - through Tier 3 support (the most robust and hands-on help available). Students who do not demonstrate a mastery of content must attend summer school in order to matriculate to the next grade level. If standards hadn’t been adjusted for this troublesome year, the number of students needing to attend summer school would be more than triple the number from last year. Moving into summer, we know that we must provide additional academic support programs to address the grade level deficits experienced by all students (including incoming 9th graders).

Despite the many hardships faced over the past year, Arrupe Jesuit is determined to stand behind and support each student as we climb out of learning loss deficits together. The school is investing in new educational technology, making curriculum improvements to close grade level and learning loss gaps, and summer school will offer a chance for students to catch up and start the new school year on equal footing. One thing we are confident in is our student’s ability to rise above adversity, and they are doing just that.

¹Horace Mann Voice of the Educator Study. (2021, March). *Closing the Learning Gap: How frontline educators want to address lost learning due to COVID-19.*

Senior Capstone Project

Senior Capstone Day was held on Friday, May 7, an event that marks a major milestone for our Seniors. These capstone projects represent a synthesis of the many skills they have mastered in their time at Arrupe Jesuit. In preparing these projects, they draw upon writing and composition skills from their English classes, research skills they developed in the social and physical sciences, and the use of the scientific method that four years of laboratory sciences have introduced them to. In addition, the incredibly valuable experiences they received working with our Corporate Work Study Partners were reflected in their ability to communicate effectively and to present their research and conclusions concisely.

This year’s Senior Capstone Day was a hybrid event with the majority of Seniors presenting their projects at the school in front of a small in-person panel of faculty and fellow classmates, as well as a group of virtual panelists connected by Zoom. A second virtual session was held in the afternoon for our online-only students, giving them an avenue to share their presentations to both faculty and outside volunteers. We extend our gratitude to our faculty for supporting these students through their four years at Arrupe Jesuit, and to our 80+ volunteers who joined us as panelists.

Virtual Volunteering

Despite the challenges of our remote world over the past school year, the Arrupe Jesuit external community was never far away. With a record 265 volunteers, collectively contributing to over 675 virtual volunteer hours in 25 virtual volunteer events, we could not be more thankful for the time and support from these participants. From practice interviews to Senior Capstone to resume workshops to the Pedro Arrupe Writing Challenge, our students never felt alone. We could not have provided our students with the necessary practice to succeed without you.



ALUMNI NOTE

We recently checked in with Julia Rodriguez, '15. What an incredible journey she has been on since she left the halls of AJHS!

"After graduating from Xavier University (Ohio) in 2019, I moved to Bethel, Alaska to complete a year of service through Jesuit Volunteer Corps Northwest. I served at the Alaska Public Defender Agency in their Holistic Defense Program (HDP) as a Client Specialist. HDP's mission is to address the root causes that may bring someone into contact with the legal system. As a Client Specialist, I visited clients in jail, accompanied them to court, and assisted them in navigating the many, many complex barriers that stood between them and accessing various social services (food stamps, housing, SSDI, healthcare, etc.). When COVID hit, my JV housemates and I took a brief step back from our service sites and aided those who were running the local food bank. Because we all lived in the same household, we were able to safely coordinate food bank collection, distribution and home delivery during the height of the pandemic.

After my year of service, I decided to stick around Bethel. I currently work for the Kuskokwim Healthcare Corporation, the one hospital in the region, as a Substance Abuse Counselor in the opioid program. While currently based in Bethel, I work with patients in the surrounding villages and, depending on COVID restrictions, I travel out about once a month to do outreach and provide face-to-face care. I am just beginning the process of studying for the GRE and am hoping in the near(ish) future to work towards a Master's in Social Work through the University of Alaska, Anchorage."

We are so proud of you, Julia!



MAGIS NIGHT RECAP

We extend our heartfelt thanks for your generous support of Arrupe Jesuit throughout our very first hybrid Magis Night! Together, we raised over \$1,000,000 in net proceeds for the school, making a Jesuit Catholic, college preparatory education available to Denver's most deserving students. Support from Magis Night allows our students to come alive in their faith and in their education, breaking the cycle of poverty for their families.



"Arrupe Jesuit and the Corporate Work Study Program really did enable me to think limitlessly - making me feel as though I no longer had anything holding me back. Because of this school I have been able to accomplish so much at such a young age... I want to tell all of the staff, the benefactors, and the CWSP Partners that because of your support of this school, that you are helping to change the lives of Arrupe students and their families, and through that, helping society to become better. Arrupe really does change peoples' lives."

– Dulce Villanueva
Class of 2014
Fairfield University Class of 2018





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BOARD OF TRUSTEES UPDATE

Over the last 18 years, Arrupe Jesuit has been blessed with dedicated community leaders guiding our school on a path to success and sustainability. The Board of Trustees, currently led by Susan Murphy, and our Corporate Work Study Board of Trustees, chaired by David Puchi, remained a constant for us as we navigated through the challenges of 2020. We had many members, whose board term was coming to a close during the pandemic, decide to stay on for another year to lift our school and students up, while so much around us was crumbling down. We honored these members and the rest of our board at our year end board meeting on June 7.

As we celebrated all that these leaders have given Arrupe during their tenure, we also welcomed new members who have generously agreed to provide their thoughts, insights and advice to Arrupe Jesuit for the next few years. We would like to say a special hello to Marco Abarca, Ryan Harris, and Paul Powers.

Welcome to our new Trustees



Marco Abarca
President and Owner of Ready Foods



Ryan Harris
Broncos Superbowl Champion and Broadcaster



Paul Powers
President of Pauls Corporation



Our sincere gratitude to the Trustees who have completed their term on the Board this year. Thank you for your service! From left to right, Debbie O'Dwyer, Rick Schmitz, Darren Walsh, Bill Fortune, and (not pictured) Rich Todd.

A LOOK AHEAD

New Sports Fields

With a special thanks to Shea Homes and Regis University, Arrupe Jesuit High School will finally have a dedicated field for our boys and girls soccer teams to utilize for practices and home games! This has been a long-time wish for our athletic department, and we are grateful to have this opportunity. The field will be built on the grounds of Regis University and shared between the two schools. Shea Homes and Regis University are committed to funding a large portion of this project, leaving Arrupe Jesuit responsible for \$120,000. We plan to break ground on this project in July 2021. If you are interested in contributing to this long-awaited sports field project, please return the enclosed donation envelope or make a donation on our website: ArrupeJesuit.com/give.

EANS Grant

In Spring of 2021, Arrupe applied and was approved for a sizable grant in the form of stimulus funding through the EANS Program (Emergency Aid for Non-Public Schools). This included requests for both reimbursement funds for COVID-19 related expenses and procurement funds to purchase various items and equipment for the school to make learning better and safer for post-pandemic life. This grant application required many hours of work and collaboration between various members of the Arrupe Jesuit Staff. We are grateful for their dedication to this project and are excited to utilize these funds to improve the school.





**ARRUPE
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HIGH SCHOOL

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JOIN OUR NEW SPONSOR-A-STUDENT PROGRAM!

The Sponsor-A-Student Program supports Arrupe Jesuit families by connecting donors to the heart of our mission; the students themselves. Your commitment will provide the gift of education through direct tuition assistance for one freshman student, or multiple if interested, creating an immediate impact on the lives of AJHS families. You will have the opportunity to walk alongside your student through their high school journey. Learn more at www.AJSponsorAStudent.com



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